21. (Cancelled)

22. (Newly Amended) ~~The~~ A computer system ~~of claim 21 further including~~, comprising:

a computer processor,

an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor,

a display responsive to the operating system,

a pointing device including:

a position sensor having an output line, and

a tactile actuator having an input line,

a pointing device driver responsive to the output line of the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the pointing device driver,

a plurality of applications responsive to the pointing device driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the pointing device driver is responsive to the general purpose applications,

a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding application, and

a configuration module operative to present pointing device configuration controls, wherein the pointing device configuration controls include controls for accessing the application-specific profile elements.

23. (Unamended) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the configuration module includes controls allowing the user to select between default and user-specified tactile signals.

24. (Newly Amended) ~~The~~ A computer system, comprising:

a computer processor,

an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor,

a display responsive to the operating system,

a pointing device including:

a position sensor having an output line, and

a tactile actuator having an input line,

a pointing device driver responsive to the output line of ~~claim 21~~the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the pointing device driver,

a plurality of applications responsive to the pointing device driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the pointing device driver is responsive to the general purpose applications, and

a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding application, wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on a regularly spaced Cartesian grid.

25. (Newly Amended) The computer system of claim ~~23~~24 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.

26. (Newly Amended) ~~The~~ A computer system, comprising:

a computer processor,

an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor,

a display responsive to the operating system,

a pointing device including:

a position sensor having an output line, and

a tactile actuator having an input line,

a pointing device driver responsive to the output line of ~~claim 21~~the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the pointing device driver,

a plurality of applications responsive to the pointing device driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the pointing device driver is responsive to the general purpose applications, and

a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding application, wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Newly Amended) ~~The~~ A computer system, comprising:

a computer processor,

an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor,

a display responsive to the operating system,

a pointing device including:

a position sensor having an output line, and

a tactile actuator having an input line,

a pointing device driver responsive to the output line of ~~claim 21~~the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the pointing device driver,

a plurality of applications responsive to the pointing device driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the pointing device driver is responsive to the general purpose applications, and

a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding application, wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements correspond to classes of the applications.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (New~~) The~~ly Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a computer processor,

an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor,

a display responsive to the operating system,

a pointing device including:

a position sensor having an output line, and

a tactile actuator having an input line,

a pointing device driver responsive to the output line of ~~claim 21~~the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the pointing device driver,

a plurality of applications responsive to the pointing device driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the pointing device driver is responsive to the general purpose applications, and

a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding application,

wherein the profile elements are provided with the special-purpose applications.

31-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Newly Amended) ~~The method of claim 34 further including a step of~~ (Newly Amended) A method of operating a computer, comprising:

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a first application-specific profile element,

sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first a first application-specific profile element,

generating a first type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a second application-specific profile element,

sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element,

generating a second type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the second type of actuation command, and

accessing the application-specific profile elements in response to user actuation of configuration controls.

36. (Newly Amended) ~~The method of claim 34 further including a step of~~ (Newly Amended) A method of operating a computer, comprising:

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a first application-specific profile element,

sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first a first application-specific profile element,

generating a first type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a second application-specific profile element,

sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element,

generating a second type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the second type of actuation command, and

selecting between default and user-specified tactile signals for at least one of the steps of generating.

37. (Newly Amended) ~~The method of claim 34 further including a step of~~ (Newly Amended) A method of operating a computer, comprising:

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a first application-specific profile element,

sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first a first application-specific profile element,

generating a first type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a second application-specific profile element,

sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element,

generating a second type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the second type of actuation command, and

selecting between default and user-specified tactile signals for at least one of the steps of generating, and

38. (Newly Amended) ~~The method of claim 34 further including a step of~~ (Newly Amended) A method of operating a computer, comprising:

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a first application-specific profile element,

sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with

the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first a first application-specific profile element,

generating a first type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a second application-specific profile element,

sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element,

generating a second type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the second type of actuation command, and

wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on a regularly spaced Cartesian grid.

39. (Newly Amended) ~~The method of claim 34 further including a step of~~ (Newly Amended) A method of operating a computer, comprising:

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a first application-specific profile element,

sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first a first application-specific profile element,

generating a first type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,

receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application,

accessing a second application-specific profile element,

sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with